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Message Text

SECRET

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21
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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R 150616Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4835
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

S E C R E T AMMAN 3936

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS : PFOR US JO TC
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAYDI'SVISIT TO JORDAN

1. FOLLOWING UP VERY BRIEF CONVERSATION WHICH WE HAD LAST WEEK, RIFAI ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM MORNING JUNE 14.

2. PURPOSE OF OUR DISCUSSION WAS TO EXPLORE FURTHER AN ISSUE WHICH HAD ARISEN DURING FONMIN SUWAYDI'S VISIT TO JORDAN EARLIER THIS MONTH. AT THAT TIME SUWAYDI INDICATED THAT THE UAE WISHED TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US. HIS PCMARY HOPE WAS THAT HE MIGHT BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS ALL ASPECTS OF UAE AND US RELATIONSHIP AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO EFFECT FURTHER IMPROMVEMENTS. WHEN I QUESTIONED RIFAI AS TO WHETHER THERE APPEARED TO BE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS OR ISSUES, HE SAID NO. SUWAYDI HAD NOTED THAT US RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN WERE EXTREMELY GOOD AND THAT THE UAE FELT IT SHOULD FALL INTO A SIMILAR PATTERN. IN ADDITIO, RIFAI NOTED THAT SHEIKH ZAYED WAS MOVING TO CONSOLIDATE AND SLIM DOWN UAE AND CONSTITUENT STATES'S MILITARY FORCES. IN THIS EFFORT HE WANTED JORDAN TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE. JORDAN ACCEPTED WITH REAL INTEREST AND LOOK FORWARD
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TO DOING SO. RIFAI SURMISED THAT ZAYED WAS BECOMING

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ALAREMED AT THE MULTIPLICITY OF INTERESTS
REPRESENTED IN THE UAE AND FELT THAT THE US INTEREST
AND BUSINSSS PRESENCE COULD BE ENHANCED AND ENLARGED.

3. RIFAI SAID HE TOLD SUWAYDI THAT IT WOULD BE BEST
IF THE US WERE APPROACHED DURECTLY BY THE UAE.
SYWAYDI SAID HE WAS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO DO THIS AND
WANTED TO DO SO IN WASHINGTON. COULD JORDAN MAKE CLEAR
TO THE S THAT SUWAYDI WAS ANXIOUS FOR AN INVITATION
TO VISIT AND WANTED TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER?

4. RIFAI SAID HE HOPTEDI WOULD PASS ON THIS REQUEST
TO WASHINGTON. JORDAN COUTED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE UAE AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND WOULD WANT TO DO
ANYTHING IT COULD TO IMPROVE US-UAE RELATIONS.
HE AND KING WOULD BE VISITING BAHRAIN ON JUNE 24TH, THE
UAE ON THE 25TH AND OMAN 26TH AND 27TH. HE ASKED IF I
COULD GET HIM, HOPEFULLY, A POSITIVE REATION FROM
WASHINGTON BEFORE THEY LEFT FOR THE GULF IN TEN DAYS.
I SAID I WOULD PASS ON HIS REQUEST AND GIVE IT THTE
FULL CSUPPORT OF THIS EMBASSY.

5. COMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR SOME
RESPONSE FOR RIFAI AND KING PRIOR TO THEIR VISIT TO
THE GULF. HOPEFULLY THIS CAN BE POSITIVE ALTHOUGH
ABU DHABI IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN I TO COMMENT ON THE
VALUE OF A VISIT AND WHAT IT MIGHT PRODUCE. I BELIEVE
STRONGLY THAT RIFAI'S INITIAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE
UAE TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT DIRECTLY WAS CORRENT AND
WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE JORDANIANS ANY MORE DEEPLY
INVOLVED THAN THEY NOW ARE IN PROVIDING GOOD OFFICES FOR
WHAT IT SEEMS TO US FROM HERE COULD BE WORKED OUT DIRECTLY.
RIFAI SEEMS TO SHARE THIS VIEW. PICKERING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN03936
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750208-0598
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750648/aaaabrfq.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI: UAE FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAYDI'SVISIT TO JORDAN
TAGS: PFOR, US, JO, TC, (RIFAI, ZAYD), (SUWAYDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006